United Nations A/54/802

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 March 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 169
Financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor

Financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General of 1 March 2000 on the financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) (A/54/775). The document contains the performance report of UNAMET for the period from 5 May to 30 November 1999, as well as a request for an additional appropriation for that period in the amount of $26,913,800 gross ($26,499,800 net) and an assessment in the amount of $23,241,600 gross ($22,827,600 net). During its consideration of this matter, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The Advisory Committee was informed that the revised estimates called for in General Assembly resolution 54/20 of 29 October 1999, and referred to in paragraph 17 of the report of the Secretary-General of 21 September 1999 (A/54/380), were not issued, in view of the developments that took place leading to the establishment of the International Force in East Timor (INTERFET) and the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET).

3. In its resolution 54/20, the General Assembly approved a revised appropriation totalling $54,428,400 gross ($52,941,100 net) for UNAMET for the period from 5 May to 30 September 1999, inclusive of budgeted voluntary contributions in kind valued at $3,438,700. By the same resolution, the Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments up to $28,037,100 gross ($27,080,700 net), inclusive of budgeted voluntary contributions in kind valued at $2,752,200 and the commitment authority up to $10 million granted by the Advisory Committee to the Secretary-General on 9 September 1999, for the requirements of UNAMET for the period from 1 September to 30 November 1999, pending the submission of a revised budget by the Secretary-General. Thus, in its resolution 54/20, the General Assembly approved for the operation of the Mission a total financial provision amounting to $92,465,500 gross ($90,021,800 net) for the period from 5 May to 30 November 1999, inclusive of budgeted voluntary contributions in kind totalling $6,190,900.

4. In addition, as indicated in paragraph 1 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/54/775), in its resolution 54/20 the General Assembly decided to apportion the amount of $7,155,000 gross ($5,667,700 net) among Member States, taking into account the voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Settlement of the Question of East Timor in the amount of $43,834,700 and in-kind contributions valued at $3,438,700 for the same period.

5. The Advisory Committee notes, from paragraph 9 of the report, that the Secretary-General proposes an additional assessment in the amount of $23,241,600 gross ($22,827,600 net), taking into account in-kind

00-34887 (E) 210300

contributions valued at $3,672,200. The voluntary contributions in kind reflect an additional voluntary contribution value of $920,000, as compared to budgeted voluntary contributions in kind valued at $2,752,200, for the period from 1 September to 30 November 1999.

6. As indicated in annex I to the report of the Secretary-General (A/54/775), cumulative expenditures for the Mission amounted to $81,342,200 gross ($79,440,900 net) for the period from 5 May to 30 November 1999, resulting in an unencumbered balance of $11,123,300 gross ($10,580,900 net), as compared to the total financial provision approved by the General Assembly in resolution 54/20. The large unencumbered balance resulted from under-implementation of mission activities caused by the political disturbances that followed the popular consultation. As indicated in annex II of the report, these included, mainly, underexpenditure in military personnel costs ($1,010,700) resulting largely from under-deployment of military liaison officers and the non-deployment of a level II field hospital; unspent balances in civilian police costs ($2,504,700) resulting from delays in deployment of civilian police in the mission area; savings in international and local staff costs ($4,493,100) resulting from under-deployment of international staff, lower expenditure on consultant services and lower than expected official travel; and underexpenditure in operational costs ($2,641,800) and other programmes ($849,900). The Committee was informed that total unliquidated obligations amount to $35.3 million, including $21.7 million under operational activities, $10.0 million under civilian personnel, $2.1 million under other programmes and $1.5 for military personnel.

7. The Advisory Committee was informed that the Secretariat has not planned for a formal liquidation of the Mission. The Committee was provided with a detailed list of assets lost during the political disturbances in East Timor, with an estimated value of $4.1 million. The Committee understands that all remaining UNAMET assets have been transferred to UNTAET, but detailed information on what assets were transferred was not provided to the Committee. The Committee was informed that currently the Field Assets Control System is installed in UNAMET but is not configured to identify information on assets transferred to UNTAET.

8. **The Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve an additional appropriation in the amount of $26,913,800 gross ($26,499,800 net) and assessment in the amount of $23,241,600 gross ($22,827,600 net) for the United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET).**